

REMARKS

Claims 27 and 29 - 35 are pending. Claims 27 and 29 have been amended.
Claims 30 - 35 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In a third Office Action dated February 13, 2004 the Examiner objected to claims 27 and 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. The applicants have rewritten claims 27 and 29 in independent form and have amended such claims by deleting "a circuit formed in said semiconductor substrate and connected to said input terminal" since the circuit being protected does not itself form part of the claimed "input protection circuit." Applicants respectfully submit that claims 27 and 29 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 30 - 35 depend directly from claims 27 and 29. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 30 - 35 are in condition for allowance.

The applicants have cancelled claims 1 - 26 and 28, thus all the pending claims are believed to be allowable.

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The applicants believe that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

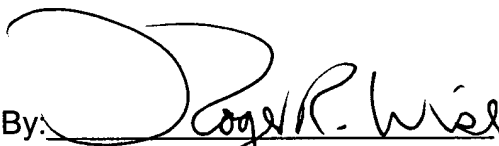
Respectfully submitted,

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